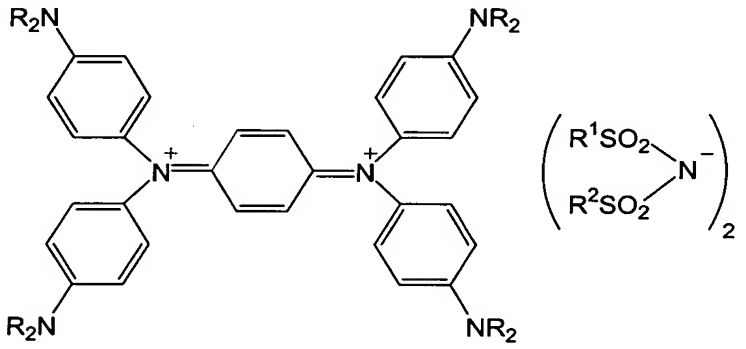
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A near-infrared light absorbing dye obtained from a diimonium salt comprising a sulfonimide represented by the ~~following~~ formula (1) ~~as an anion moiety~~:



( 1 )

wherein, R individually represent an alkyl group, alkyl halide, cyanoalkyl group, aryl group, hydroxyl group, phenyl group, or phenylalkylene group, and $R^1$ and $R^2$ individually represent a fluoroalkyl group or combine to form a fluoroalkylene group.

Claim 2 (Original): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 1, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ individually represent a perfluoroalkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Original): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 2, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ both represent a trifluoromethyl group or both represent a pentafluoroethyl group.

Claim 4 (Original): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 1, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ combine to form a perfluoroalkylene group having 2-12 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Original): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 4, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ combine to form a hexafluoropropylene group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, an alkyl halide, or a cyanoalkyl group.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled).

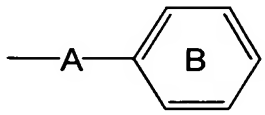
Claim 10 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 2, wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, an alkyl halide, or a cyanoalkyl group.

Claim 11 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 3, wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, an alkyl halide, or a cyanoalkyl group.

Claim 12 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 4, wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, an alkyl halide, or a cyanoalkyl group.

Claim 13 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 5, wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, an alkyl halide, or a cyanoalkyl group.

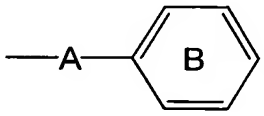
Claim 14 (New). The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 1, wherein R represents a phenylalkylene group of the following formula:




( 2 )

wherein, A represents a linear or branched alkylene group having 1-18 carbon atoms and B represents a substituted or unsubstituted benzene ring.

Claim 15 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 2, wherein R represents a phenylalkylene group of the following formula:




( 2 )

wherein, A represents a linear or branched alkylene group having 1-18 carbon atoms and B represents a substituted or unsubstituted benzene ring.

Claim 16 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 14, wherein R represents a benzyl group or phenethyl group.

Claim 17 (New): The near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 14, wherein R represents a benzyl group or phenethyl group.

Claim 18 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 1.

Claim 19 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 2.

Claim 20 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 3.

Claim 21 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 4.

Claim 22 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 5.

Claim 23 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 6.

Claim 24 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 10.

Claim 25 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 11.

Claim 26 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 12.

Claim 27 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 13.

Claim 28 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 14.

Claim 29 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 15.

Claim 30 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 16.

Claim 31 (New): A near-infrared light blocking filter comprising the near-infrared light absorbing dye of claim 17.